

CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA FOR APRIL, 1912.

DISTRICT No. 10, GREAT BASIN.

ALFRED H. THIESSEN, District Editor.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

This month will long be remembered as one of the coldest of its name ever experienced in this district. The mean temperature averaged considerably below normal and much lower than the average for April, 1911. The cold weather was quite uniform throughout the month, there being no periods of high or exceptionally low temperatures.

Frosts occurred frequently, but owing to the backward condition of the fruit, the losses were small and local, as far as can be estimated at this time.

Precipitation for the district averaged about 30 per cent above normal. There were about eight rainy days on the average, and the excess of cloudy days kept the ground wet.

In general the inclement weather and wetness of the ground were unfavorable for the advancement of farm work and the seasonable growth of all vegetation; but, on the other hand, the continued cold kept the fruit buds from swelling, thus rendering them able to withstand the frosts that occurred during the month. At the close of the month the fruit was just coming into blossom.

TEMPERATURE.

The mean monthly temperature for the district was 42.6° , or 4.2° below normal, and the individual means ranged from 32.4° at Park City, Utah, and at Tahoe, Cal., to 51.0° at Jean, Nev. The temperature chart shows that the highest monthly mean temperatures occurred, as a rule, in the protected valleys of the Utah area and the southern portion of the Nevada area, and the lowest at the more elevated stations.

Practically every station in the district reported temperatures below normal. The greatest minus departure was at Beowawe, Nev., where the mean was 39.8° , or 9.5° below normal.

The weather was moderately warm during the first week of the month, but after that it was uniformly cool, the lower temperatures beginning about the 6th in the Utah area and about the 9th in the Nevada area.

The lowest minimum temperature was 3° at Pinto, Utah, on the 13th, and the following are the lowest readings reported from other States in this district: 9° at Cokeville, Wyo., on the 1st and other dates; 20° at Grace, Idaho, on the 7th; 13° at Tahoe, Cal., on the 12th; and 11° at Millett and Potts, Nev., on the 12th.

As a rule, the highest temperatures occurred during the first decade; 62° was registered at Evanston, Wyo., on the 14th; 71° at Weston, Idaho, on the 8th; 81° at Iosepa, Utah, on the 10th, which was the highest in the district; 62° at Truckee, Cal., on the 8th; and 79° at Jean, Nev., on the 8th and other dates.

The greatest daily range was 53° at Quinn River Ranch, Nev., on the 2d, when the maximum was 74° and the minimum was 21° . The greatest local monthly range was 60° at Pinto, Utah.

PRECIPITATION.

Precipitation averaged 1.64 inches for the district, which is 0.45 inch above the normal. The precipitation chart shows a very uneven distribution of moisture throughout the district, the larger amounts occurring on the western slope of the Wasatch Mountains in Utah, in the southern portion of the Nevada area, and in the east-central part of the California area. When the precipitation amounts are studied with reference to the normal amounts inequalities are again very apparent. Amounts above normal occurred almost without exception in the Utah area, while in other portions of the district there were wide deviations from the normal, both above and below.

Precipitation occurred, as a rule, during the last two decades, but there were quite general showers in all parts of the district on the 5th. The heaviest rains for the district centered around the 11th and 19th, and in the California area generally heavy rains occurred also around the 25th and 29th.

The largest monthly amount was 7.32 inches at Deer Park, Cal.; the least was 0.08 inch at Lemay, Utah.

MORE SNOW MEASUREMENTS.

The activity of the local office of the Weather Bureau at Salt Lake City in measuring the water equivalent of the snow in Maple Creek Canyon, Utah, for two seasons has led at least two others to attempt like work.

Mr. B. F. Eliason, of Moroni, Utah, measured the snow in a small watershed in the vicinity of Moroni, and the city engineer of Salt Lake City also made quite a complete snow survey of Big Cottonwood watershed. Mr. Sylvester Q. Cannon, assistant city engineer, was in charge of the work under the supervision of the city engineer and has kindly prepared a report which appears in another part of this Review.

DOES FROST FIGHTING PAY IN UTAH?

By J. CECIL ALTER, Observer, U. S. Weather Bureau.

Notwithstanding all the evidence that has been brought forth to show that it pays to fight frost with fire in the Utah orchards, the fact remains that probably more than 90 per cent of the fruit growers of the State are not yet convinced that it pays, and therefore are not utilizing this means of insurance.

Hoping to adduce some new evidence for use in answer to this great question, a little examination has been made of the cost of frost fighting and of the weather conditions in representative Utah fruit regions to ascertain, if possible, whether frost could have been successfully combated in the past. The general results of the study are given briefly herewith.

The query "What does it cost to heat?" has an exceedingly elusive answer, for not only are facts scarce, but those available present a surprisingly wide range of

